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FEB 23 1996

95-174

2413 Myrtle Lane
Reston, Va. 22091
February 22, 1996

FCC MAIL ROOM

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Sir,

This is our comment for the Notice of Inquiry #95-484
we are hearing impaired couple who enjoy watching
television programs with closed captioned which open us to see the world
and interesting events, Laugh or cry as what the story was told on the
screen but sometimes we were deeply disappoint when there were
missing captions or garbled words on the screen.

For years, the television set makers built and perfected
the voice sound so the hearing people can understand what the programs
talked about. Then the same television set makers should do the same
for the hearing impaired. It is really ridiculous to see that "closed
captioned is sponsored by such company" on the screen. Why must they
seek for someone to sponsor the closed captioned. Do we ever see or hear
the words that said "the voice sound was sponsored by such company"?
So all the television stations must provide the closed captioned on all
programs, not force us to see that one, not other one because of no
closed captioned.

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Truly yours,
Donald Wagner

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Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St.
Washington, DC 20554

FEBRUARY 20, 1996

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Dear Sirs:

This letter is in response to Notice of Inquiry #95-484.

My wife is a late deafened adult. For hearing impaired people who live in the hearing world life is stressful and after a day of trying to lip read they are exhausted. The only entertainments that are available to them are reading and watching TV shows and videos that have been closed captioned.

A few of the frustrating problems that occur are:

- Garbled text
- No captions on emergency news flashes
- No captions on programs advertised as captioned
- Captions that disappear part way through the program (and never return)
- No quality control checks by stations to ensure that the captions are working
- Shows and movies that have been captioned are rerun without the captions
- Captioned shows go into syndication without captions
- Cable TV shows very little captioned material (almost none except movies)

I would like to make the following recommendations.

All television shows except advertising and infomercials should require captioning. If advertisers are dumb enough to not caption their material that just gives the hearing impaired an edge over the hearing. The deaf need all the help they can get.

It is extremely important that all emergency information be open captioned without exception. Penalties for failure to do so should be severe.

Quality control should be required at both the network and local station level to ensure captions are correct and running. The requirement for caption accuracy should not be applied to real time captioning since by its very nature mistakes will occur.

Captions must travel with the programs and the movies. Once a show is captioned, that should be the only version that exists. That way there will be no mistakes when a show or video is purchased.

Cable TV is a problem. Captioning is not that expensive and I believe that cable shows

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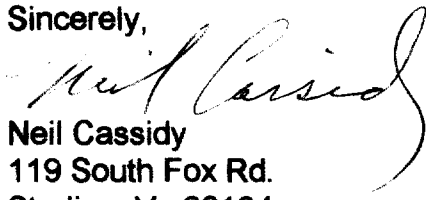
0

should all be captioned. A less satisfactory alternative would be to make cable providers discount their services to any household that contains a hearing impaired person within it. The key to this is that the discount should be the percentage of uncaptioned material shown. Again, ads and infomercials excepted - but these do not count in calculating total time. Since this is currently as much as 95% of the material offered this would be quite a hit in the pocketbook. Now there is an incentive! Generally speaking, households where there is a hearing impaired member do not watch uncaptioned shows, even when all other members of the household are hearing, out of courtesy to the impaired member.

This letter is not meant to be inclusive. As a hearing person I am not competent to discuss all of the problems but I have seen too many times the disappointment that a tired lady feels when a favored show or movie does not show captions as advertised. I have too often heard of people watching a TV news flash showing things like an overturned hazardous material truck and no way to tell from the picture if they are affected or not, or flash flood and other weather emergencies announcements that are not captioned. The airwaves are a precious commodity and the government has a right to set the rules on their use. AARP estimates that one third of the older population have a hearing deficiency.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to comment through your Notice of Inquiry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Neil Cassidy", written in black ink.

Neil Cassidy
119 South Fox Rd.
Sterling, Va 20164

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FEB 23 1996

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95-174

Linda Kemp
10 Goldenrod Dr
Carlisle, Pa.
17013
February 16, 1996

The Office of Secretary
Federal Communication Comm.
1919 M. St., N.W.
Washington, D.C.
Dear Mr. Secretary,

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

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Speaking for myself as a person who is deaf. Closed captioning has enriched my life by allowing me to visually access information. When captioning is not provided, I am excluded (by reason of my disability) from that information.

I commend Congress in their support of the Telecommunication Act (FCC 95-484). Closed Captioning and Video Description of Video Programming is a benefit to everyone. I am asking that you consider having all programming captioned. It is frustrating when I am excluded from a program in which I have an interest. I do not feel someone else should determine what "class" of program I would be allowed to have access.

Thank you for considering my request and looking forward to having access to all the information that everyone else has.

Sincerely,



Linda Kemp

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95-174

1085 Monroe St.
Oberlin, PA 17113
Feb. 16, 1996.

The Office of Secretary
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M St. N.W.
Washington, D.C.

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Mr. Secretary,

As a profoundly deaf person, I find closed captioning very enriching. Whenever captioning is not provided, I feel excluded from necessary information.

I commend the Congress in their support of the Telecommunication Act (FCC 95-484). Closed Captioning and Video Description of Video Programming are beneficial to everyone. I request your consideration in captioning ALL programs. To be excluded from a program of my choice is very frustrating. I do not feel that anyone else ought to dictate what "class" of programs I should see.

Many thanks for your consideration. I hope to have access to all the information which everyone else receives.

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Sincerely,

Lowann Harkins

LOWANN HARKINS

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FEB 23 1996

FCC MAIL ROOM

The Office of the Secretary
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M St., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

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Thank you for considering my request and looking forward to having access to all the information that everyone else has.

Sincerely,

Thomas L. Coulston

THOMAS L. COULSTON

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7080 Huntington St.
Harrisburg, Pa 17111-5236
February 16- 1996

The Office of the Secretary
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M St., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

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Dear Mr. Secretary,

Speaking for myself as a person who is deaf. Closed captioning has enriched my life by allowing me to visually access information. When captioning is not provided, I am excluded (by reason of my disability) from that information.

I commend Congress in their support of the Telecommunication Act (FCC 95-484). Closed Captioning and Video Description of Video Programming is a benefit to everyone. I am asking that you consider having all programming captioned. It is frustrating when I am excluded from a program in which I have an interest. I do not feel someone else should determined what "class" of program I would be allowed to have access.

Thank you for considering my request and looking forward to having access to all the information that everyone else has.

Sincerely,

Nettie B. Miller
NETTIE B. MILLER

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7080 Huntingdon Street
Harrisburg, Pa. 17111-5236
February 16-1996

The Office of the Secretary
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M St., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Speaking for myself as a person who is deaf. Closed captioning has enriched my life by allowing me to visually access information. When captioning is not provided, I am excluded (by reason of my disability) from that information.

I commend Congress in their support of the Telecommunication Act (FCC 95-484). Closed Captioning and Video Description of Video Programming is a benefit to everyone. I am asking that you consider having all programming captioned. It is frustrating when I am excluded from a program in which I have an interest. I do not feel someone else should determined what "class" of program I would be allowed to have access.

Thank you for considering my request and looking forward to having access to all the information that everyone else has.

Sincerely,

Lillie Bell Farr
LILLIE BELL FARR

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The Office of the Secretary
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M St., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Speaking for myself as a person who is deaf. Closed captioning has enriched my life by allowing me to visually access information. When captioning is not provided, I am excluded (by reason of my disability) from that information.

I commend Congress in their support of the Telecommunication Act (FCC 95-484). Closed Captioning and Video Description of Video Programming is a benefit to everyone. I am asking that you consider having all programming captioned. It is frustrating when I am excluded from a program in which I have an interest. I do not feel someone else should determined what "class" of program I would be allowed to have access.

Thank you for considering my request and looking forward to having access to all the information that everyone else has.

Sincerely,

Ronald + Meredith Ernesto



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Office of the Secretary
Federal Communication Commission

FEB 23 1996

19 M. St., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

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605-C Willow St.
Highspire, Pa. 17034
Feb. 20, 1996

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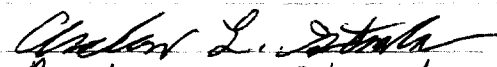
Dear, Secretary

Hello, My wife and I accept that we born deafness completely. We love, enjoy and interest to watch any show on Video and Cable T.V.'s Close Caption for our worth life in many years. That's mean what we necessary learning our education from the most important Close Caption.

We think that the most deaf stone people would put two corks in your ears to close listening on T.V.'s stereo you cannot understand what T.V. say. The most deafness of people, who's ears loss/nerves from the DNA disease that the DNA disease cannot be cure to heal their ear well.

The most deaf people and I really need learning the most important education from the close caption for our important physical and mental in the solution of future. Why did George bush signed for new close caption in any brand name T.V. Please don't be any discrimination on us about close caption Outlook, our nerve ear loss by the DNA disease!

Sincerely,


Andrew L. Stender
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The Office of the Secretary
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M St., N.W.
Washington, D.C.



Sandra L. & Andrew L. Stender
605-C Willow St
Highspire PA 17034

Feb. 20, 1996

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Speaking for myself as a person who is deaf. Closed captioning has enriched my life by allowing me to visually access information. When captioning is not provided, I am excluded (by reason of my disability) from that information.

I commend Congress in their support of the Telecommunication Act (FCC 95-484). Closed Captioning and Video Description of Video Programming is a benefit to everyone. I am asking that you consider having all programming captioned. It is frustrating when I am excluded from a program in which I have an interest. I do not feel someone else should determined what "class" of program I would be allowed to have access.

Thank you for considering my request and looking forward to having access to all the information that everyone else has.

Sincerely,

Andrew L. Stender
Andrew L. Stender

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95-174
Feb 21, 1996

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

The Office of the Secretary
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M St., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Speaking for myself as a person who is deaf. Closed captioning has enriched my life by allowing me to visually access information. When captioning is not provided, I am excluded (by reason of my disability) from that information.

I commend Congress in their support of the Telecommunication Act (FCC 95-484). Closed Captioning and Video Description of Video Programming is a benefit to everyone. I am asking that you consider having all programming captioned. It is frustrating when I am excluded from a program in which I have an interest. I do not feel someone else should determined what "class" of program I would be allowed to have access.

Thank you for considering my request and looking forward to having access to all the information that everyone else has.

Sincerely,

David M. and Elson Baker
4009 Cheryl Dr
Harrisburg, Pa 17109-4142

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FEB 23 1996

FCC MAIL ROOM

100 SOUTH EASTVIEW AVE
FEASTERVILLE, PA. 19053

95-174

The Office of the Secretary
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M St., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Speaking for myself as a person who is deaf. Closed captioning has enriched my life by allowing me to visually access information. When captioning is not provided, I am excluded (by reason of my disability) from that information.

I commend Congress in their support of the Telecommunication Act (FCC 95-484). Closed Captioning and Video Description of Video Programming is a benefit to everyone. I am asking that you consider having all programming captioned. It is frustrating when I am excluded from a program in which I have an interest. I do not feel someone else should determined what "class" of program I would be allowed to have access.

Thank you for considering my request and looking forward to having access to all the information that everyone else has.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Arbri

ELEANOR ARBRI

James L. Arbri

JAMES. L. ARBRI

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FEB 23 1996

817 Sheffield Court
Carnegie, PA 15106
February 20, 1996

FCC MAIL ROOM

The Office of the Secretary
Federal Communication Commission
Notice of Inquiry (NOI)
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Mr. Secretary,

As a leader in the Deaf Community and as a Deaf person myself, I am writing this letter in the matter of closed captioning and video description of video programming (FCC 95-484). Closed captioning has enriched my life by allowing me to visually access the information, however there are times when captioning is not provided, I become "lost" and felt that I was deprived of the equal access. It is the same thing as when the sounds are not available, the people who have hearing would be "lost".

I want to commend the Congress in their support of the Telecommunication Act (FCC 95-484) as closed captioning and video description of video programming is very beneficial to everyone. The people with hearing loss need universal real-time captioning at all times instead of pre-recorded programs that usually do not include the live or ad-libbed segments in newscasts that they miss out greatly. It is the same feeling for people who have hearing when the sounds are turned off in between news telecasts. It becomes frustrating as we have to wait until the next morning for the newspapers to find out what is happening. I am asking you to have ALL programming captioned, and I do not feel that someone else should determine what "class" of program that the deaf people would be allowed to have access. That is "discrimination".

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration, and I look forward to having the access to ALL information very soon that everyone else have, including people who can hear.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Pollard

Elizabeth Pollard

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Feb 19, 1996

To Whom it may concern,

FEB 23 1996

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95-178

FCC MAIL ROOM

I am writing this letter to encourage you to require that all television programming be closed captioned for the deaf and hard of hearing. This should be required from both the major networks and all the cable networks. Closed captions are such a small percentage of a programs cost - it really is an insult to the deaf when programs air without captions. Its also frustrating.

I am hearing, but my mother is hard of hearing and cannot follow any television program without captions. I often watch television with her, and I've often had to pass over a show or movie I've wanted to watch because it did not have closed captions. It's even worse when your program is interrupted for urgent news (weather storms, train accidents) and its not captioned. I guess they figure deaf people aren't concerned when a tornado is spotted in the area!

This is supposed to be the era of communication. Television (for good or bad) is a part of our culture and a major source of information. Let's stop keeping the deaf and hard of hearing behind.

Michelle 

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Mrs. Robert Russ
1206 W. 30th St.
Erie, PA 16508-1542

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95-174

The Office of the Secretary
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M St., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

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Dear Mr. Secretary,

Speaking for myself as a person who is deaf. Closed captioning has enriched my life by allowing me to visually access information. When captioning is not provided, I am excluded (by reason of my disability) from that information.

I commend Congress in their support of the Telecommunication Act (FCC 95-484). Closed Captioning and Video Description of Video Programming is a benefit to everyone. I am asking that you consider having all programming captioned. It is frustrating when I am excluded from a program in which I have an interest. I do not feel someone else should determined what "class" of program I would be allowed to have access.

Thank you for considering my request and looking forward to having access to all the information that everyone else has.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Russ

Pres. ERIE County Council of DEAF & HH

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RECEIVED
FEB 23 1996
FCC MAIL ROOM

95-174
R R4 Box 230
Montoursville, PA
17754

The Office of the Secretary
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M St., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Speaking for myself as a person who is deaf. Closed captioning has enriched my life by allowing me to visually access information. When captioning is not provided, I am excluded (by reason of my disability) from that information.

I commend Congress in their support of the Telecommunication Act (FCC 95-484). Closed Captioning and Video Description of Video Programming is a benefit to everyone. I am asking that you consider having all programming captioned. It is frustrating when I am excluded from a program in which I have an interest. I do not feel someone else should determined what "class" of program I would be allowed to have access.

Thank you for considering my request and looking forward to having access to all the information that everyone else has.

Sincerely,

Aurora V. Solomon
Aurora V. Solomon

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45-176



ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

R. R. #1, Box 99 E-1
Gravel Springs Road
Jacksonville, Illinois 62650
February 19, 1996

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FEB 23 1996

FCC MAIL ROOM

**BOARD OF OFFICERS
AND DIRECTORS**

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430 South Wisconsin Avenue
Oak Park, IL 60302
(708) 386-9162 (TTY)

The Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

"In the Matter of Closed Captioning and Video
Description of Video Programming (FCC 95-484)"

Dear Sir:

On behalf of over 1 million deaf and hard of hearing consumers in Illinois as the Illinois Association of the Deaf President, I am writing a letter to you regarding Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996 being signed by President Clinton. I would like for you to pay attention to over 20 million deaf and hard of hearing Americans wanting a full closed captioning for all types of programs. As a certified private deaf pilot, I often would like to buy a video tape about aviation adventure from the Sporty Flight Shop but all video tapes are not captioned. Again, as a head deaf football coach and an assistant deaf wrestling coach, there is a galore of video tapes for variable fundamental basics, but I could not order any one of those tapes because of not one being closed captioned. I need to order those tapes to improve my coaching skills as well as getting ideas and tips. Enclosed is a sample copy for your information. Please include Closed Captioning of Video Programming (FCC 95-484) to the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Closed Captioning programs are very important to deaf and hard of hearing consumers. Therefore all kind of all video tapes must be closed captioned, so deaf consumers could rent or buy his or her own special type of video to meet and satisfy his or her needs.

Thank you for your time to consider our wish for a full closed captioning for all types of programs.

Sincerely,

Clyde C. Smith
IAD President

cc: Harvey Goodstein
NAD Vice-President

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95-174

95-636 Hanalei St., Unit G-203
Mililani, HI 96789
February 19, 1996

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FEB 23 1996

FCC MAIL ROOM

The Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Dear Sir,

These are my comments regarding the Notice of Inquiry, "In the Matter of Closed Captioning and Video Description of Video Programming (FCC 95-484)" which was initiated by and coordinated with the Commission's Disabilities Issues Task Force and Mass Media Bureau, seeking comment on the following general issues:

1. The public interest benefits of closed captioning and video description:

The Deaf, Hard of Hearing, young hearing children learning to read and immigrants will benefit from closed captioning because they will be provided with access to the printed form of English, associated in context with video and/or pictures, which would help them to learn how to read sooner. For those Deaf and Hard of Hearing people who already know how to read, the captioning will provide access to the latest changes in English as it continues to evolve and expand as a language. This type of access is cut off or decreased, obviously, due to hearing loss.

For example, my father and mother in-law bought a new TV recently and they leave the Closed Captions on, even when my wife and I are not visiting. My father has been losing hearing in one ear and I noticed he is watching the captions more. He is disappointed that not all the programs on his cable service (not more than 5%) are Closed Captioned. My mother in-law's first language is Japanese. I have noticed her reading the captions more and she is reading English better than she did before.

2. The current availability of closed captioned and video described television programming, including the degree to which availability varies by program source, program type, market size and other factors:

My wife and I are both Deaf, so we would love to see 100% closed captioning of ALL programs. We do not subscribe to cable TV, because we noticed that in other people's homes where they have cable, very few of the programs have captions. In fact, we read recently that only 5% of cable programs are captioned! That is a dismal and depressing percentage! We recommend that Deaf and Hard of Hearing pay only 5% of the normal cable rate for hearing subscribers! We get the regular broadcast channels with our good old-fashioned TV antenna and we get much more closed captioning!

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3. The potential impact of advanced television and digital technologies on the availability of closed captioning and video description:

The potential impact of the new technologies will be enormous. First of all the cost of machines that do the captioning will become more affordable for everyone.

Accessibility under the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) will be easier for City, County, State and federal government agencies to achieve in council meetings, courts and legislative sessions. Deaf and Hard of Hearing people could become more active participants in the governing

process as members of a council, as the judge, lawyer, defendant, complainant or as a member of the jury in a court, or as a lobbying, or testifying citizen, or as a legislator.

I see Closed Captioning impacting more people as it is expanded perhaps through voice-activated technology, so there would not be a need for a stenographer. I see advanced TV's that offer multiple channel viewings, each with Closed Captions provided with stenographer or voice-activated technology. Such technology could be used by Deaf and Hard of Hearing students to make their own video letters, resumes and reports. Teachers could use this technology for teaching Deaf and Hard of Hearing and/or immigrant students English as a second language. Employers could make captioned training videos for their Deaf and Hard of Hearing employees.

Important public service announcements as well as Civil Defense emergency announcements could be more easily Closed Captioned with the new technologies coming up. Airlines could offer closed captioned movies for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing viewers and Movie Theatres can provide open-captioned movies for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing movie goers.

4. The cost of closed captioning and video description, as well as the current sources of supply and funding for these services:

Right now, cost is relatively high and has given some well-meaning people who wish to provide access to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing a reason to pause in order to consider alternative means of funding access as mandated under the ADA. As technology for the manufacturing of Closed Captioning technology becomes more efficient and cheaper, so will the prices on the market. Funding for these services should be maintained if not increased.

5. The market incentives for closed captioning and video description:

My hypothesis is that Deaf and Hard of Hearing people will be more likely to purchase a product or service if the commercial for it has closed captions. It is true for my wife and I.

6. What if any measures the Commission should take to promote closed captioning and video description:

Promote legislation to encourage Cable companies to Closed Caption more of their channel offerings until they achieve 100% captioning.

7. In the event mandatory requirements are deemed necessary, the general form that they should take. The item seeks comment on which entities should be subject to such requirements, appropriate exemptions from any requirements, technical and quality standards, transition mechanisms, and strategies to improve competition and innovation in the provision of these services.

Cable companies should encourage any channels that do not provide captions for their programs to do so. Channels that could be exempt from the captioning requirement would be those with a budget too low to provide closed captioning. Technical and quality standards should be at their highest for all Channels. The National Captioning Institute could be the agency that would determine how well a channel met the present technical and quality standards, which should be updated from time to time, as new technology warrants.

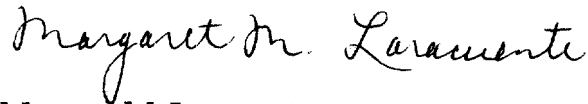
Transition would depend on how long it takes an average cable channel to achieve captioning of all its programs. Research would be needed to determine that length of time and also add an extra cushion of time for unexpected events, such as acts of God. Cable channels that captioned 80-100% of their programs could receive a discount from the cable company for showing their channel. FCC could provide an award to the channels that consistently provided the most quality-captioned programs. The National Association of the Deaf and other similar organizations could also provide similar recognition.

Thank you for allowing us to make the above comments.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Stephen G. Laracuento".

Stephen G. Laracuento

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Margaret M. Laracuento".

Margaret M. Laracuento

95-176
DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Diane Bessler-Hackett 580 Chickadee Lane Victor, MT 59875

February 19, 1996

The Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED
FEB 23 1996
FCC MAIL ROOM

RE: In the Matter of Closed Captioning and Video Description of
Video Programming (FCC 95-484).

To Whom it May Concern:

What would I like to see closed captioned? Everything. If someone felt the program was worthwhile enough to be broadcast, sold, or rented then it's worthwhile to close caption it. However, the most important things are educational shows and local news which often are not.

I am profoundly hard of hearing and going deaf. In the last several years I have become dependant on closed captioning and get very upset when something is not. Only one of our TV stations captions local news. However, they only caption prerecorded news; not interview inserts, last minute news, or the weather. This causes problems for me when our highways are closed to emergency travel only since I am dependant on my husband to listen for these reports, and some one at work to contact me when the highways are open again. If this information were closed captioned I wouldn't have to depend on someone else to take time from their busy schedule to find out this information for me.

Deaf and hard of hearing people aren't the only ones who can benefit from closed captioning. Illiterate adults and young children can learn to read by watching captioned shows, so there are more benefits to closed captioning than just helping the disabled.

As for the quality of captioning, I would like to see more careful editing. Quite frequently I get into a show and there is a big break where the typist failed to caption a section. I realize that live shows are difficult to caption because there is no time to go back and edit, but I am sure that technology will be available in the very near future that will help this. IBM has already come out with a computer dication program that can put spoken word straight to type.

Sincerely,

Diane Bessler-Hackett

Diane Bessler-Hackett

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RECEIVED
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February 19, 1996

The Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: FCC 95-484

Dear Sirs:

We love closed captioning. Please see that **ALL VIDEOS** that are for sale to the public are captioned...and soon.

Thank you.

Mary M. Anderson

Mary M. Anderson
Five Gettysburg Drive
Jacksonville, IL 62650

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95-174

SOCIEDAD PRO NIÑOS SORDOS INC.

Box 8343
Ponce, P. R. 00732
Tel. (809) 840-3011

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February 20, 1996

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The Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 m Street, NW
Washington, D. C. 20554

**In the Matter of Closed Captioning and Video Description of Video Programming
(FCC 95-484):**

Deafs, Hard of Hearing, late-deafened and hearing people from Puerto Rico needs an equal and full access to television programs and video programming in Spanish. Here we have to face the problem of no caption in Spanish in our daily t.v. programs which make life more difficult. Important events like the local news, weather, documentaries, movies and others can't be enjoy as hearing people do. And we ask why? why Deaf people and others have to be relegate from the society avoiding their right to learn, to enjoy, to be literate?

We need your support to ensure the equal and full access for universal real-time captioning for pre-recorded programs with live or ad-libbed segments in Spanish in Puerto Rico.

We hope that with the Telecommunications reform Act Of 1996 and your real support the Puerto Rico's Deaf people quality of life will be much better.

Thanks,


Fr. Reinaldo Saliva González

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